

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 251435Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, GW

SUBJ: CZECHOSLOVAK ACTION AGAINST WEST GERMAN JOURNALIST

1. FRG TRADE MISSION AND JOURNALIST SOURCES HAVE TOLD US OF SOMEWHAT PUZZLING ASPECTS TO CZECHS' CANCELLATION OF ACCREDITATION OF FRG CORRESPONDENT HANS-PETER RIESE, ANNOUNCED BY CETEKA SEPTEMBER 13 AND STILL BEING PLAYED IN MEDIA HERE.
2. CANCELLATION SUPPOSEDLY RESULTED FROM RIESE HAVING ARRANGED TO MAKE FILM FOR FRG TELEVISION ABOUT OTA FILIP, ONCE-PROMINENT LIBERAL WRITER SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS' IMPRISONMENT IN 1970 WHO IS NOW DAIRY-TRUCK DRIVER IN OSTRAVA.
3. IN FACT, HOWEVER, WE ARE TOLD THAT RIESE HIMSELF HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH MATTER AND THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR FILM WERE MADE BY RIESE'S WIFE AND WEST GERMAN CAMERAMAN ACCREDITED AND RESIDENT HERE. NEITHER OF LATTER WAS MENTIONED IN ARTICLES ATTACKING RIESE, AND CAMERAMAN HAS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS ACCREDITATION HAS NOT BEEN

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LIFTED AND HE HOPES TO STAY. RIESE WAS ON HOLIDAY IN

YUGOSLAVIA WHEN PRESS HERE FIRST ATTACKED HIM. HE HAS
SINCE RETURNED TO BONN, BUT AT LAST WORD WAS HOPING TO
BE ABLE TO RETURN TO PRAGUE TO WIND UP HIS AFFAIRS.

4. IN ANY CASE ACTION AGAINST RIESE WAS APPARENTLY
MOTIVATED BY CONTACTS HE HAD MADE WITH LIBERALS HERE.
BESIDES FILIP MATTER, RIESE WAS ACCUSED OF MEETING IN
NOVEMBER 1972 WITH WRITERS PAVEL KOHOUT, VACLAV HAVEL,
IVAN KLIMA AND OTHERS RE PUBLICITY ABROAD FOR INTELLECTUALS'
PETITION TO PRESIDENT SVOBODA (PRAGUE A-137, DEC 29, 1972.)
WORTZEL

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